

Press Release

SERNANP, ITA, INKATERRA, CANATUR and WCS organize the 1st Workshop for the Conservation Strategy of the Spectacled Bear in the Machu Picchu – Choquequirao environment



In the frame of the International Year of Biodiversity, declared by the United Nations (UN), a workshop has been organized with important scientists, experts in Bear management and conservation. The experts come from different countries: Dr. Isaac Goldstein Aizman (Venezuela), Dra. Diana Laura Crider (USA), Dr. Juan Carlos Blanco (España), William Zorro Maldonado (Colombia), Dr. Rob Williams (Inglaterra), Heinz Plenge (Perú), Russ Van Horn (USA) y Carmen Soto (Perú).

This workshop has taken place at the Machu Picchu Historic Sanctuary from December the 6 - 10th. The goal is to design a Strategy for the conservation of the spectacled bear in the Machu Picchu – Choquequirao landscape and ecosystem unit, as a basis for the management and conservation of the specie in similar places in the country. Field work has taken place to know the actual situation of the spectacled bear's population and habitat, affected by socioeconomic activities of the local population. This information is vital for the strategy's construction.

The Andean Bear or Spectacled bear (*Tremarctos ornatus*) is an endangered species, being the only native bear of South America, symbol of the Machu Picchu National Sanctuary. This is a impressive mammal known for its peaceful and friendly character, that unfortunately is in a vulnerable conservation situation that Peruvians must not forget. China has a strong promotion program for the Great Wall and the Panda Bear; it's not the same situation in Peru where the Inka citadel of Machu Picchu is strongly promoted ignoring that in its surroundings lives a 2 meters tall bear that can be seen in the cloudy mountains looking for its favorite food: bromeliads.